

THE DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2009-2019

A PLAN TOWARD

THE YEAR 2020

Submitted by:
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DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

To establish a common language of achievement at DPS, and develop a customer and data driven, student centered learning environment where students are motivated to become productive citizens and life long learners, and equipped with the skills necessary to meet whatever challenges that life may present.

PURPOSE

As we begin this new year of 2009, the Detroit Public Schools are currently at a crossroad. Actually this intersection of former practices and new ideals is an opportunity to move forward like no other time in the one hundred and sixty-seven year (167) history of the District. In order to bring stability and eventual growth to the District founded in 1842, we must plan for the success of pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade and beyond students. At this juncture, envisioning the Detroit Public Schools over the next ten (10) years is paramount. The operational key is preparing the District for the year 2020, with incremental measures on performance objectives each year. Finally, a longitudinal framework approach for holistically educating the student, parent/guardian, family and community through academic achievement, management of financial resources, security of children/youth and providing innovative pedagogical instruction within clean and technologically advanced school buildings is of utmost importance.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Goal:

Establish a ten (10) year, 2009-2019, qualitative and quantitative Academic Achievement System that provides systematic, systemic, strategic and seamless grade level performance expectations and deliverables, for every pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade student via measurable data and outcomes each academic year.

Objectives:

- 1.) Develop an educational audit of pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade curricula conducted by four (4) to seven (7) research universities/colleges. This higher academe consortium will serve as an educational team to support the District on academic research, curriculum development, instructional advisory and professional development. Among other discoveries or disclosures, the educational audit will determine or answer the following:
 - Does the Detroit Public Schools curriculum align appropriately with State of Michigan - Department of Education guidelines?
 - What are instructor teaching methods at each grade level?
 - What are student learning expectations at each grade level?
 - Which standardized testing strategies are utilized at respective grade levels?
 - What are causes for the achievement gap between elementary and high school - "the middle school trap?"
 - What impact does healthy food choices and overall food service have on the educational development among students?
 - What impact does art, music, athletics and extra-curricular activities have on academic achievement?

Academics, academics, academics, academics! The attainment of greater student achievement must be the District's main purpose even among extremely key stakeholders such as union, parental, community, business, media, educational, governmental and religious leaders.

- 2.) Develop curriculum guidelines consistent with the State of Michigan - Department of Education graduation requirements in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language courses, while simultaneously expanding Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) curricula. Through this development, the District will adhere to the state mandates of "rigor and relevance" in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade curricula. Furthermore, the District must enhance its commitment to online or virtual courses, particularly for Alternative Schools. The District will implement a Gifted and Talented Program and initiate colloquium courses modeled after the Chicago Public Schools such as "Morningstar Investments," "Great African Heroes," "1950s American Films," "Singapore Math," etc. Finally, transitional workshops will occur for parents regarding kindergarten to elementary school, elementary to middle school, middle to high school and secondary to post-secondary education.
- 3.) Increase student test preparation skills through the curriculum for examinations such as the State of Michigan - Michigan Merit Examination (MME) and Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP), American College Test (ACT), SAT, PSAT, PLAN and EXPLORE. Through this objective, the District will vigorously strive toward Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) attainment and coach students for university/college admissions, scholarships and financial aid.
- 4.) Develop an academic achievement model or "College Readiness" site based management system for pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade students. By this model - presented yearly at each school's mandatory "Back to School," "Meet the Faculty" or "Learn the Curriculum" night for parent/guardians, Local School Community Organization (LSCO) meetings and other parent organization venues - the District will further address the student success, graduation, retention and drop-out rates. This model, either through empowered schools or site based management, will accentuate each school's "School Improvement Plan."

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Goal:

Establish a two (2) year, 2009-2011, then ongoing Financial Management System facilitated by a financial team of four (4) to seven (7) external experts from corporations, certified public accounting firms, banking institutions, universities/colleges in conjunction with a District project manager, who will give direction to this "Financial A Team" jointly providing oversight to a formal set of budgeting/accounting principles for the District.

Objectives:

- 1.) Stabilize current financial status of the District by accurately reconciling monthly income and expenditures, addressing findings of annual external audit, complying with the State of Michigan - Department of Education Consent Agreement and conforming to Title I - High Risk Status mandates. Furthermore,

provide timely and accurate monthly Deficit Elimination Plan data to the State of Michigan - Department of Education.

- 2.) Control spending while providing simultaneous review of all necessary expenditures and determining a realistic monthly schedule of vendor/contractor invoice payments. An adopted zero based spending or budgeting mechanism will not allow expenditures over budgeted amounts within each department or unit.
- 3.) Generate a timely and extremely critical student recruitment, admissions, enrollment and retention plan to accentuate student population growth within the District. By exemplar re-branding and ongoing expansion of public relations - including radio, television, newspaper and magazine advertisements along with a Back-to-School Week/Parade (modeled after the Bud Billiken Parade in Chicago, Illinois) - the District will showcase/market the "Great Things Are Happening" in Detroit Public Schools theme and through heightened student enrollment, significantly increase State of Michigan per pupil funding. The two (2) main targeted student enrollment campaigns will focus on the two (2) - fourth Wednesday Count Days.
- 4.) Develop the Detroit Public Schools Foundation to build financial capacity or different revenue streams (other than State per pupil and Federal grant funding) for valued programming such as the arts, music, athletics and academic test preparation. Through this objective, Detroit Public Schools alumni from all fields or careers will be called upon by an external foundation board of trustees to provide pledges via golf outings, theatrical performances, river boat cruises, auctions, reception dinners, etc.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Goal:

Establish an ongoing vital, mobile safety/security system within each high school, while providing periodic security checks at all elementary, middle and kindergarten through eighth grade schools via a team of security/police personnel professionally trained in youth development and anti-social behavior, thereby, reducing or eliminating the number of Detroit Public Schools - Student Code of Conduct violations per school.

Objectives:

- 1.) Develop a safety/security system wherein personnel methodically monitor each hallway, set of doors and external grounds or campus at each patrolled school. Monitoring includes physically walking areas during class change and non-class change times.
- 2.) Implement the Center for Student Advocacy that will provide action or treatment plans, mentoring, exposure opportunities and elective life skill courses for each "at risk" and/or expulsion track student. The CSA will counter youth gang activity by fulfilling group identity needs among early and later adolescent youth.
- 3.) Develop relevant before and after school programming to address student cognitive, psycho-sociological and physical activity needs. Through this objective, the District will provide a positive set of stimuli wherein adolescent pre-teens and teens will be involved in activities beyond the normal school hours

including the peak children/youth delinquent activity times of 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- 4.) Research cause and effect of students participating in anti-social and/or deviant behaviors. By this objective, further study ways to establish or increase protective factor development, while eliminating or decreasing risk factors among early and later adolescent youth within the Detroit Public Schools.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Goal:

Establish an ongoing Facilities Management System that will entail cleanliness, maintenance, recycling and "cutting edge" information technology for each open school with the projection of building future "state of the art" college preparatory elementary, middle and high school constellations.

Objectives:

- 1.) Generate cleanliness deliverables/measurables for each Detroit Public Schools building. Through this objective, assure that all buildings are adequately cleaned/maintained both on an internal and external basis. Moreover, encourage "out of the box" thinking that engages or empowers local schools/communities to accomplish the identified goal via "School Beautification Days," "Spring and Fall Clean-Ups," "Recycling/Green Programs" and the "Motor City Makeover" tasks.
- 2.) Provide "state of the art" or the latest information technology for each school building. By this objective, develop programming wherein all students, parents and families are able to view homework, classroom expectations, test/quiz scores, course grades and other pertinent school information online along with automated telephone calls to respective homes or residences for full/half day school closures, snow days, report card distribution notices and other necessary communication. This overall aspiration will bring more excitement and fun to classroom learning in DPS.
- 3.) Secure current vacant school buildings and view alternative usages for each closed facility. Consultation with universities/colleges and community stakeholders to determine the most efficient/effective utilization of each shuttered building is crucial under this objective. Furthermore, engage local community groups to be involved in the policing of vacant buildings by providing a telephone and online tipline to encourage community monitoring of the schools.
- 4.) Develop a proposal to build two (2) new college preparatory elementary, middle to high school constellations that will adhere to the "small schools" model. This objective will afford the opportunity to implement "Vertical Teaming" Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) schools within a pre-kindergarten through high school modeling format.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

The Detroit Public Schools has a wealth of talented professionals extremely concerned about the academic achievement of its students. With the main focus on educational attainment and through generating and stabilization of finances, securing the children/youth, and providing clean and technologically advanced buildings, the District will flourish. Each above goal has several objectives that coupled with day-to-day operational strategies will allow the District to compete with private, charter and other school Districts over the next ten (10) years. By this framework, combined with a myriad of theoretical and practical techniques, the Detroit Public Schools will be an educational beacon for academicians of all ages. Finally, we must envision the District in the year 2020, then put yearly measurable objectives in place to reach our future, our destiny.

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENT SUCCESS ECOSYSTEM

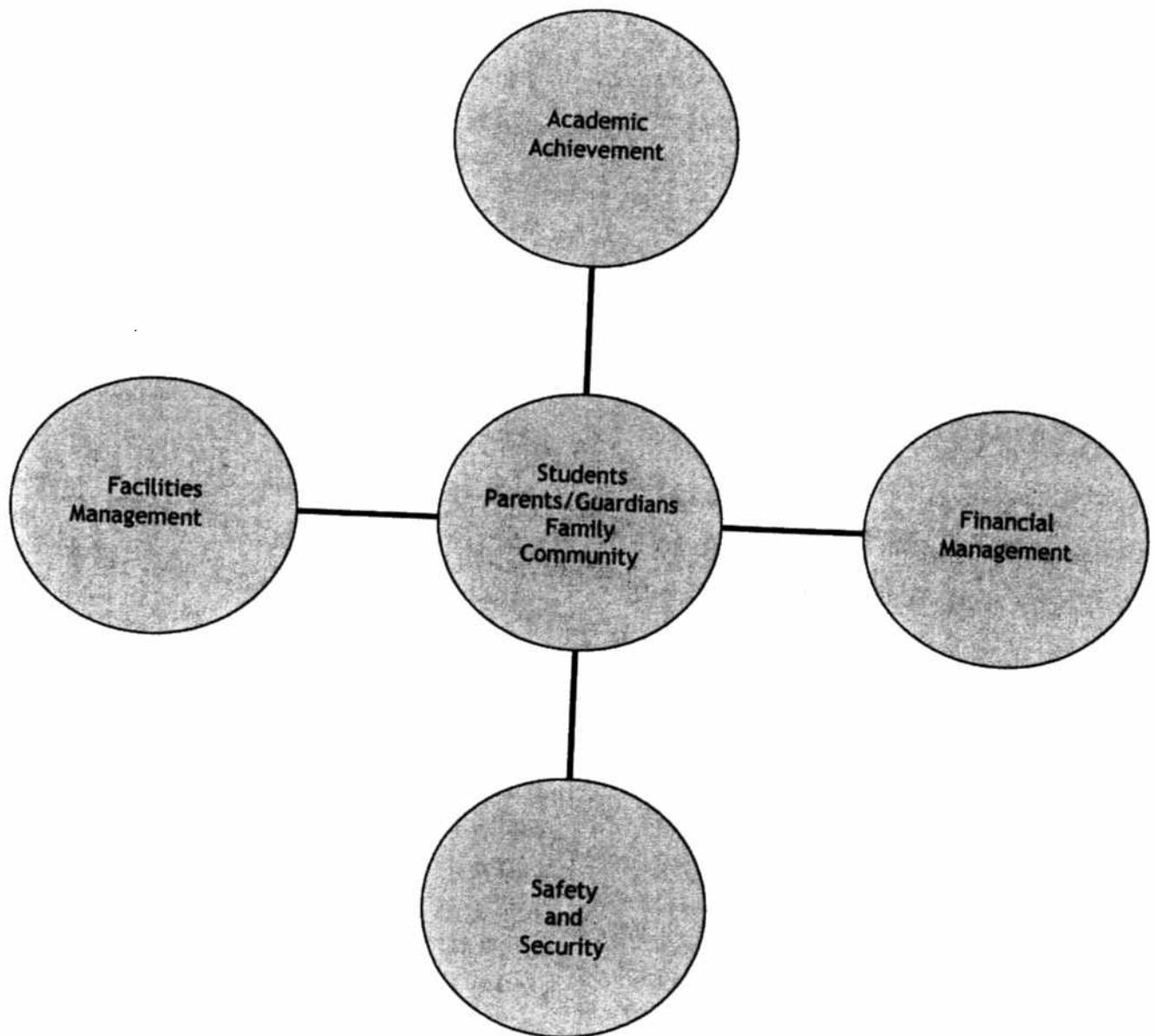


Figure 1.1

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